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SOURCE Vatan.SURVEY OF TURKEY'S KIRKLARELI PROVINCE

The following report is one of a series of surveys of Turkish provinces published in a special weekly supplement of the Istanbul daily newspaper Vatan.

Agriculture and Economic

Farmers comprise 86 percent of the province's population. The overall area of 568,500 hectares is divided as follows: fields, 184,647; gardens, 870; orchards and vineyards, 2,214; meadows, 3,126; pastures, 92,312; thickets, 28,437; and mountains, forests, and inhabited areas, 256,895. Average production in normal years is: 80,000-90,000 tons of grain from 70,000-80,000 hectares; 1,000 tons of legumes from 1,500 hectares; 100,000-110,000 tons of industrial plants (sugar beets, sunflower seeds, etc) from 10,000 hectares.

Wines once constituted an important source of income, but the extensive vineyards no longer exist. However, an attempt is being made to revive the industry, and in the spring of 1952 the Agriculture Ministry will distribute 250,000 American shoots. Farmers are also being encouraged to plant almond trees and to make use of credits for this purpose from the Ziraat Bank. There are three nurseries in the area at Pinarhisar, Vize, and Babaeski. That at Pinarhisar, 6 kilometers from Luleburgaz, is managed by Emin Albay. This nursery is now emphasizing the Canadian poplar which is used in making paper; it is two to three times as productive as the native variety; Italian poplars also do better.

Stock raising has suffered as pastures have been turned into fields for crops. There are now in the province 288,835 sheep, 11,944 water buffalo, 90,053 goats, 553 mules, 35,541 cattle, 32,266 oxen, 8,059 horses, 10,283 donkeys, and 216 pigs.

One important occupation is the making of cheese. The province produces 150,000 tins of cheese annually, 40,000 of them in the city of Kirklareli. There is one cheese plant in almost every village. The production of kashar (Balkan) cheese totals 75 tons annually.

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Production of honey has been started at Luleburgaz by Mehmet Kamil Onas. Although it is not yet on a commercial scale, it is expected to expand in the future.

Production of sunflower-seed oil is increasing every year. Of the 85 oil presses in Thrace, four are in Kirklareli. Income from this source in 1952 in all Thrace is expected to reach 50 million lira.

Another future source of income is tourism, which is expected to consist chiefly of hunters and fishermen, especially from Istanbul. In the province are to be found large numbers of partridges, quail, rabbits, doves, roe-deer, deer, martens, beavers, and fresh-water fish.

Alpullu Sugar Factory

The Alpullu Sugar Factory has a permanent staff of 340 men and, in addition, hires an additional 1,800 in the busy season, chiefly unskilled peasants. The factory maintains facilities for feeding and lodging up to 700 of these. The workers are protected by the Labor Law and by workers' insurance laws; there is a factory infirmary in which they and their families can get free medical care.

Alpullu is one of the four factories operated by the Turkish Sugar-Factories Administration. Its annual production is 40,000 tons of sugar from 330,000 tons of sugar beets sent there from all parts of Turkish Thrace. The factory distributes to farmers free of charge seed which it grows on its own farms, and also advances fertilizer and pest-control drugs and insecticides.

Forestry

The state forest exploitation in Kirklareli Province, now directed by Sami Karasozen, was established in April 1944. When that in Edirne was abolished in 1951, it was attached to Kirklareli despite the fact that forest exploitations generally follow administrative boundaries. At present, the Central, Babaeski, and Luleburgaz districts of Kirklareli province and the Central, Lalapasa, Uzunkopru, Meric, Ipsala, and Kesan districts of Edirne province are subordinated to the Kirklareli exploitation which covers an area of 1,011,957 hectares of which 192,329 hectares are wooded.

Of the wooded area, forests account for 39,230 hectares (21 percent), swamps 87,748 hectares (45 percent), and cut areas 65,341 hectares (34 percent). The principal evergreen tree in the forest areas is red pine, while most of the deciduous trees are oak and beech; there are also small quantities of willow, alder and poplar. In the swamp areas, oak, beech, and alder predominate, although some dogwood, hazel-nut, medlar, elm, and willow are found.

In 1945, 550 cubic meters of beech, 590 cubic meters of oak, 450 cubic meters of poplar, and 413,000 quintals of firewood were produced; 350 cubic meters of the beech and of the oak went for local peasant needs, and the rest to the market, while all of the poplar went to the market. Of the firewood, 299,600 quintals went for local peasant needs, 28,400 quintals to the market, and 80,000 quintals were sold by peasants. In addition to the above, the gendarmerie bought 210 cubic meters of oak for telephone-telegraph pole needs, while the match factory bought 568 cubic meters of poplar logs.

The exploitation employs 6,957 people for cutting, sawing, transportation, reforestation, and construction. The exploitation is divided into six areas: Kesan, Edirne, Suleoglu, Lerekoy, Kurudere, and Luleburgaz. Each area has 45 ^[sic] official employees: 15 technicians, 27 maintenance personnel, 19 office personnel, 1 lawyer, 2 warehouse employees, 21 fire guards, 9 servants and grooms, and 1 chauffeur.

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The province has 34,078 children of school age of whom 21,738 attend school. In Kırklareli city, there are a secondary school, a men's trade institute, a girls' evening trade school, and five primary schools; while in the district's villages there are 53 five-grade and 18 three-grade primary schools. Lüleburgaz has one secondary school, the Kepirtepe Village Institute, a girls' evening trade school, and four primary schools; while in the villages are 27 five-grade and five three-grade primary schools. Babaeski has one secondary school and two primary schools; while in the villages are 29 five-grade and 16 three-grade primary schools. Vize has a secondary school and two primary schools; while in the villages are 20 five-grade and four three-grade primary schools. Demirköy has one primary school; while in the villages are one five-grade and seven three-grade primary schools.

The school shortage is worst in Lüleburgaz, and the 1952 budget includes 50,000 lira for a ten-room primary school; the budget also provides funds for converting an old warehouse into a primary school in Babaeski.

The Kepirtepe Village Institute, directed by Cemil Sirel, is one of 23 in Turkey. The school has 5,000 donums of land attached to it; part of its own needs are supplied by the wheat, oats, and spelt grown on about 1,000 donums. Onions, garlic, and other winter and summer vegetables are also grown. Two artesian wells supply the school with water.

In its 13 years of existence, 75 girls and 572 boys have graduated from the school. The institute now has 561 students, all boys, from villages throughout Thrace. Girl students from the area are now sent to the village institute near Izmir, coeducation having been abolished in all village institutes.

Public Works

In addition to repairs on major roads, construction began on the following roads in 1951, with completion scheduled for 1952:

1. A road linking Vize district to the present highway in the vicinity of Buyukkaristiran.
2. A road linking the village of Kuleli to Pehlivanöy.
3. A road linking the village of Karamesutlu to the Babaeski-Kırklareli highway.
4. A road linking the subdistrict of Tasagil to the Babaeski-Kırklareli highway.
5. A road linking the village of Musellim to the same highway.
6. The Hasboga-Vize road.

Health

There is a 50-bed hospital in Kırklareli, a dispensary in Babaeski and Vize, and a state dispensary in Lüleburgaz and Demirköy. In Kırklareli there is also a dispensary operated by the Antituberculosis Society, under Ragip Özer, its president. Dr Cevdet Tan, chief doctor at the dispensary, also serves as a specialist on internal diseases at the state hospital. Tuberculosis is a serious menace in the province, the society alone having registered 2,386 tuberculars. Construction began in 1951, with state aid, of a 20-bed tuberculosis pavilion.

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Banking

The Ziraat (Agriculture) Bank, managed by Necmettin Behman, is the only bank in the province, although the Is (Business) Bank handles banking matters involving the province through its Edirne branch.

In 1951 the bank extended 1½ million lira in credits through six cooperatives, and another 250,000 lira in revolving credits for fields of endeavor not covered by the cooperatives. It also distributed seed and 200,000 lira in credits to new immigrants; while 900,000 lira was loaned to merchants.

At present, the bank is preparing to extend credits to revive the once flourishing grape industry which was destroyed by the Balkan wars and the Greek occupation.

Kirklareli Municipality

Kirklareli is a poor city with less than half the trade it had 25 years ago. The present population is only 14,464 as compared to 32,000 in 1940. (In the same period the population of the entire province fell from 256,353 to 192,393.) The present budget is 450,000 lira, of which 200,000 is derived from electricity; almost half the budget goes for salaries, while municipal services must get by with the remainder.

The city does not have too great a need for additional roads, but existing ones need repair. In 1951, 1,300 meters of concrete roads and 2,000 meters of pavement were built; the 1952 budget allots 60,000 lira for new construction.

The city's electricity needs have almost been met by the addition of new equipment to the power plant; but the city has one of the highest electricity rates in Turkey, charging 45 kurus per kilowatt. However, the city has decided to reduce this to 30 or 35 kurus this year.

At present, all water in the city must be obtained from fountains. However, the city has prepared a plan for a pressure system which involves bringing water 30 kilometers from Ayveni. Not being able to raise the 1½ million lira needed itself, the city has requested credit from the Iller (Provinces) Bank.

The city operates a slaughterhouse which handles 15,000-17,000 animals a year at a profit of more than 30,000 lira. An ice plant brings in 20,000 lira annually, and income is also derived from a gas depot.

The present mayor is Halil Yaman.

Luleburgaz

Luleburgaz is in the midst of a commercial and industrial development after having thrown off the lethargy which resulted from the war-scare evacuation of Turkish Thrace in 1941. One of the first steps was the construction of a large building in the center of town by the present mayor, Omer Lutfi Sonmez; one part of the building houses the press and offices of the newspaper Trakya Sesi. The city's population was 12,830 in 1950 but is said to have increased by 2,000 since then. One of the city's chief enterprises is Islam Naci and partners, which operate a cheese plant, an ice plant, and a flour mill.

The city's budget in 1951 was 225,000 lira. Income of 70,000 lira was derived from the power plant, for which two new diesel motors have been ordered. The present rate of 40 kurus per kilowatt is expected soon to be lowered.

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The city now gets its water from seven artesian wells. Plans for a pressure system to bring water into the homes is now under study.

There are two cinemas, one owned by the city but rented to its operator, the other owned by Mehmet Ozbel.

Babaeski

The city is located on the Istanbul-Kirklareli railroad and the Istanbul-Edirne highway, 36 kilometers from Kirklareli and 561 from Edirne. The majority of the city's population are farmers.

The district's chief crops are wheat, barley, rye, sugar beets, sunflower seeds, and melons. A weekly market is held in Babaeski, and twice a year (spring and fall) there is a 3-day animal and produce fair.

Water is obtained from wells located north of the city, but the 60-tons-a-day flow is insufficient.

The electricity network was installed in 1939 at a cost of 23,000 lira; only the city has power. Alternating current is produced by a 70-horsepower diesel motor.

The Alpullu sugar factory is located in the district, 10 kilometers from the city.

Vize

The city, with a population of 4,891, has about 1,100 houses. The nearest railway station is 46 kilometers away at Cerkeskoy on the Istanbul-Edirne line.

Most of the district's population is engaged in agriculture and stock raising. Chief crops are wheat, barley, rye, oats, corn, sunflower seeds, and sugar beets. Lumber, pit props, and firewood are produced from the district's forests. A market is held every Monday, and there is an annual fair on 24 August.

Demirkoy

Most of the people of the district center make their living from firewood and charcoal. All types of cereals and legumes are grown but only for local needs. There is no water or electrical system. The town has a population of only 2,272.

Sports

Kirklareli and Babaeski each have two sport clubs, while Luleburgaz and Vize each have one. Wrestling and soccer are the favorite sports.

Hotels

The hotel business is almost unknown in the province. There are only three hotels -- Sakarya, Emek, and Zafer -- in Kirklareli, none with baths. Luleburgaz also has three hotels -- Bozkurt, Balkan, and Zafer -- which have, respectively, 40, 35, and 30 beds.

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